



The Bands of Ola High School

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2012 Ola High School Band FAQ:

What classes are offered during the school day?

1. Wind Symphony
2. Symphonic Band
3. Concert Band (possible for 2012-2013 school year)
4. Percussion Class I: Marching Battery students in the fall; Percussion Ensemble in the Spring
5. Percussion Class II: Front Ensemble Students in the fall; Percussion Ensemble in the Spring
6. Jazz Band Class (by audition only)
7. Music Theory: Advanced 11th and 12th grade students only

Are there auditions for band class placement?

Yes. We will be auditioning every student for our band class placement during the last week of March. Students have already been provided with the etudes (music) for their placement audition. The classes are set based on ability level, not grade level.

What band class should my student sign up for?

It is required that all wind musicians sign up for at least one of our concert ensembles during the school day. The percussionists are offered a little more flexibility. Ideally, if the percussion student is in the marching band, then they should join the percussion class that suits them based off of fall membership. We will discuss scheduling choices with every student who auditions for band classes. When you go to register for your classes at the high school, all you will need to do is choose band as your choice as an elective and the band directors will place you in the appropriate class.

Can my child take two band classes?

This can be possible. Several of the percussion students will end up taking a percussion class and a band class. If the wind players are interested in learning more about jazz music, then there are select spots available to take an additional Jazz Band class. Students should speak with the HS directors if they would like to take an additional class.

Is marching band a class offered during the school day?

No, marching band is not a class. The marching band is one of the most visible units of our band program, though, so there will be some time spent working on Marching Band music during the first few weeks of school in all band classes.

What is the terminology used on the OHS band calendar found on the bands website?

Battery: Percussionists who march on the field

Front Ensemble: Percussionists who play percussion instruments on the sideline

Percussion: Both the Battery and Front Ensemble

Colorguard: Students who spin/dance and perform with weapon, saber, rifle, and flags

Winds: Any musician that plays a wind instrument, such as woodwinds and brass

Full Marching Band: All components of the marching band

Band Camp: This happens in July and is one of the most important learning times for our Marching Band unit. Pre-Camp, Band Camp, and Post-Camp are crucial times in the development of the band.

Is the colorguard considered a part of the marching band?

Yes, the colorguard is a part of the marching band. We hire independent instructors to come in and teach our colorguard unit. There is a lot of separate learning that happens with the colorguard, but they are held to the same rules, conduct code, and expectations as the rest of the marching band members.

What is Band Camp?

Band camp is the culmination of the creative process for the marching band show. For this year, marching band camp will be held on the campus of Ola High School. Students will learn how to march and play in an outdoor environment, and will learn the importance of team membership in creating a rewarding musical experience. Students will receive instruction from staff members in marching and playing in both individual and ensemble settings. Many bonds are formed in the marching band camp. Aside from marching and playing, ideals of trust, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting, achievement, and character are all components of the camp experience.

Is Band Camp mandatory if I plan on being in the marching band?

Unless a conflict is previously discussed with directors, yes, the marching band camp is mandatory. We will cover the equivalent of nearly six weeks of regular rehearsal hours in just a few days. The process of learning marching drill is dependent on the "dots" in the drill being filled. Without the charted marcher in attendance at any given time, it becomes difficult for those around him or her to successfully march their drill. Likewise, promptness to all rehearsals is required, so we may all begin at the same time. When the rehearsal time is posted, students should plan to arrive 15-20 minutes prior so that they are ready to begin at the given time. We also ask that unless already cleared in writing, all doctor appointments not be scheduled during band camp. Attendance and promptness will be documented at each rehearsal per band policies. Leadership members will notify the directors of tardiness and/or absence.

Does high school band conflict with academics?

No! Research shows that it enhances academics . . . Most students will never encounter a problem enrolling in a band class for all four years of high school. From National Music Education Research, it has been found that students participating in band for two years score higher: SAT Verbal-20 points higher, SAT Math-25 points higher. Also, MORE THAN 75% of area band students enroll in Honors & AP courses! Finally, 60-75% of band seniors nationwide graduate "with honor" distinctions, and 25% of area marching band students have a 4.0 or higher GPA while participating in marching band!

From the Director's Viewpoint

Why do I believe a student should participate in band all 4 years of high school?

Joining the Ola High School Band is one of the most rewarding, educational, and fun things a new student at Ola High School can choose to do. Besides the obvious reasons to join band, such as making new friends, learning new music, and having fun, there is a lot more students can gain from being in band at OHS. As a teacher, I want my students to be well prepared for their futures as successful college students, employees, and community leaders with a passion for life; I want OHS band students to be individuals who will go out and make a positive difference in our world. And I have done my research! I know the skills needed for a student to be well prepared in a very competitive society. I know that nothing else in the high school curricular setting develops multifaceted critical and spatial thinking better and more in-depth than four years of band. I know that band students with 4 years of band **will score significantly higher on the SAT/ACT** test than students without. Colleges and businesses are looking for people who are educated AND can be organized, manage time wisely, work well with other people, demonstrate discipline, think creatively, and know how to perform well under pressure. Do you see a class offering those critical life skills in the program of study book? No, but band does all of those things!